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TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

JAN 16 2002

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Examiner Noah Kamen
Patent and Trademark Office
US Department of Commerce
Washington DC 20231

Fax 703 746 4547 and / or 703 308 7766

23 pages

December 26 2001

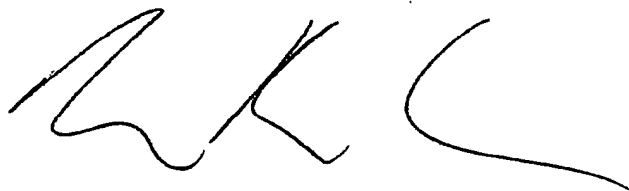
Dear Mr Kamen:

Ref: Patent Applications 08 / 477 703 and ~~08 / 477 704~~

I was sorry to hear from Richard Harris that my faxed letter of December 11 apparently didn't reach you. When I phoned early on the morning of the 12th to say your regular fax number was not responding, you gave me another number, and it got through (see confirmation.) I shall try re-sending it to both numbers, so hopefully it will land on your desk this time.

You wanted to review this material before deciding whether an interview would be useful. If and when you decide you would like to have a meeting, please contact Richard Harris directly at fax number 301 299 9498.

Yours sincerely,



Mitja Hinderks.

FAX RECEIVED
DEC 26 2001
Group 3700

cc Richard Harris fax 301 299 9498

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for [signature]
Dear Mr Kamen:

Ref: Patent Applications 08 / 477 703 and ~~08 / 477 704~~

After reviewing the above cases, Richard Harris (the attorney of record) and I (the applicant) both feel very strongly that a speedy conclusion to the above applications could best be realized by an early meeting with yourself, at which all remaining outstanding issues could be reviewed and hopefully agreed upon. We accordingly respectfully request such a meeting, during the week of January 14th. That day would suit, but the 15th would be better still for us, with the 16th as an alternative. We would both be available for a second day, if you wished to adjourn any meeting to confer with your colleagues.

In both cases, proposals for cleaning up the text and formalizing the drawings would be presented.

In the case of 477 704, we would like to review the circumstances under which so many of the dependent claims were rejected, and perhaps request an opportunity to make minor adjustments to some of these claims. For reference, a copy of the supplemental amendment to the main claims is included (8 pages), together with a schedule of dependent claims as filed in 1999 (12 pages.)

In the case of 477 703, we would like to review the circumstances under which our response to the final rejection was not entered. We may propose minor adjustments to the response to enable the case to be allowed on appeal, rather than start all over with the filed submission, effectively a new case.

Hopefully you will agree to our request, made positively and cooperatively. I shall be out of town for a short while, so please fax your response to Richard Harris directly at 301 299 9498.

Yours sincerely,



Mitja Hinderks.